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Philately

International Stamps

Indonesia

Excerpts from newspapers and other
sources

From the files of the
Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection

STAMP NEWS

International



The Pageant of Philately

THIS MONTH

	Page
United States News	2
The Editors Page	3
New Foreign Issues	4-13
U. P. U. Issues	13
A New Country	14-19
Interesting Sets	20-25
Stories Behind The Stamps	26
Best Sellers	26
Four Star Specials	27
The Rarest of the Rare	28

JAN - FEB 1950

A NEW COUNTRY FOR COLLECTORS

Republic of the United States of
INDONESIA

An independent Republic in the Southwest Pacific Ocean between Australia, the Asiatic mainland, and the Philippines. The archipelago of Indonesia separates the Indian and Pacific Oceans.

The land area is about 735,000 square miles, or more than the combined areas of all countries of Europe outside the 'iron curtain', including the British Isles. Indonesia is more than twice the size of pre-war Germany and France together, or equal in size to the eastern United States from Canada to the Gulf and almost as far inland as the Mississippi river. Traveling by air from one end of Indonesia to the other is equivalent to flying from Chicago to Panama, or from London to Baghdad.

The population of the new Republic is over 77,000,000. In natural resources it ranks third in the world—only after the United States and Russia.

The capital of the new country was Jogjakarta, a city of 1,650,000 persons, until December 1949, when it was moved to Jakarta. The new capital, which was formerly called Batavia has a population of 2,500,000 and is the largest port and principal city of Indonesia.

The first President was Achmed Sukarno, and the Premier is Mohammed Hatta. The government is a constitutional democracy patterned after that of the United States. It is loosely allied to the Netherlands by a voluntary tie to the Crown.

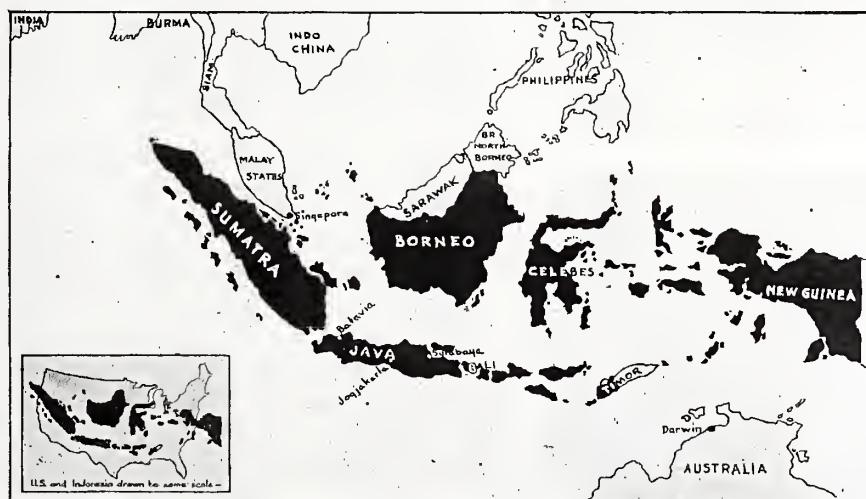
The new nation was declared an independent sovereign state on August 17, 1945. A central government was set up with legislative, executive and judicial branches. Communications, public works, educational and health institutions functioned regularly, as did the courts. An army and police force were created and a new currency was issued.

On September 29th British troops arrived and armed warfare broke out in Indonesia. A year later, on October 14, 1946, a truce was negotiated in which the Indonesians agreed to allow the Dutch to land troops to replace the evacuating British. In return the Netherlands recognized the Republic as the de facto government of Java, Sumatra and Madura. By the following March, the Republic had been recognized by the United States, Australia, India, the United Kingdom, and most other countries. Nations which had previously extended de facto recognition such as Egypt and many others, now granted de jure recognition.

However, a few months later, an intense naval and air blockade was thrown around the Republic by the Dutch. When this proved unsuccessful, a full scale military attack was launched in July 1947. This also proved unsuccessful.

After strongly worded denunciations of the Dutch action by both India and Australia, a new truce under U.N. auspices was signed in January of 1948. The unofficial blockade was maintained by the Dutch but continued to be a failure.

On December 18, 1948 another full scale surprise attack was launched which brought the verbal wrath of most of the civilized world



A NEW COUNTRY FOR COLLECTORS

down on the Netherlands. Despite the utilization of their full war effort, the attack failed to crush the Republic, and the Dutch began a slow withdrawal and returned the captured capital of Jogjakarta to the Republican government.

Last November, at a conference at the Hague under U.N. auspices, the Netherlands and the Republic signed an agreement calling for a complete withdrawal of the Dutch from not only the Republican areas, but from the whole of Indonesia. It was also agreed that there would be the unconditional recognition of the sovereignty and independence of the Republic which absorbed all of the other states of Indonesia, the cessation of all hostilities, and the ending of the Dutch naval blockade. On December 27, 1949 the formal transfer of the whole of Indonesia to the new government was completed.

★ ★ ★

According to press reports the very democratically minded leaders of the new Republic often compare their struggle for freedom with that of the early United States. Their whole system of government is patterned after that of this country, and during their long struggle for liberty they received their greatest support from Australia, the United States, and other democratic countries.

When the United States of America was born after years of hardship and strife, it was subjected to a quarter of a century of derotatory comment from European countries which couldn't conceive of its existing without regulation from abroad. Frederick the Great summed up his views: "Republican government cannot endure over so large a territory." Talleyrand dismissed the new government: "The United States? A giant without bones!"

It is interesting to note how even today, while the great democracies welcomed the new United States of Indonesia and promised support, there was still the same old undertone of cynicism from some countries in Europe and Asia.

★ ★ ★

The stamps of the Republic of Indonesia are not only the most interesting stamps in a decade, they are as well the most attractive. The December 19th New York Times prominently pictured some of these in the first section under the headline "Indonesia Stamp Issues Illustrate Sukarno's Interest in Americans". The article began as follows: "Regarding Dr. Sukarno, sworn in at Jogjakarta on Saturday as the first President of the Republic of Indonesia, the Associated Press has reported that 'he likes to quote from Lincoln and Washington and compare Indonesia's struggle with the American Revolution'. Reflecting that concept are designs on Dr. Sukarno's Repoebliek Indonesia postage stamps now in use.....".

The January 2nd, 1950 Newsweek pictures some of the stamps and reports from Indonesia: "...the idealism with which the new nation faced the future was symbolized by the Indonesian heroes pictured on the republican post-

age stamps: Sukarno and George Washington were portrayed on the 1 rupiah....."

All of the sets of the Republic to date are shown below. All are still priced on a face value basis. All are excellent issues to buy immediately as parts of every set are sold out at the post offices and the balance is being withdrawn for overprinting. New definitives are reported on the way to render all obsolete.

Only very limited quantities are available of some of the sets shown and all are subject to prior sale.



25903 First definitive postage issue, complete to the 1 rupiah value. This striking set pictures Indonesian leaders and early American heroes in addition to beautiful views of Indonesia. The set of nineteen pictorials 2.95



25906 The five high values to complete the set above. Shown are a mosque in Sumatra, the Java hot springs, a soldier presenting the Republican flag, Premier Hatta and President Sukarno 19.50

Indonesian Republic "Democracy"
nine (Franklin, Jefferson, Hamilton)
post and air complete (11 in series) .68

ditto, added values (also Lincoln) (7 "") 1.45

Total 18 stamps \$ 2.13

Harry Edelman

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